

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 9 without prejudice and add the following new claims:

1 ¹⁹
20. (New) An apparatus that measures pulse transit
2 time of a living subject, comprising:
3 first and second pulse sensors to be placed at a first
4 pulse point and a second pulse point, respectively, said
5 first pulse point and said second pulse point being spaced
6 from one another; and
7 a signal processing system connected to said first and
8 second pulse sensors and operative to differentiate first
9 and second pulse wave signals corresponding to outputs of
10 said first and second pulse sensors, respectively, to
11 select corresponding points of said first and second pulse
12 wave signals based on the results of the differentiation,
13 and to detect a time delay between the selected points.

1 ²⁰
21. (New) An apparatus according to Claim ¹⁹ 20, wherein
2 said signal processing system selects a point of
3 predetermined slope characteristic from each of said first
4 and second pulse wave signals.

1 ²¹
22. (New) An apparatus according to Claim ²⁰21, wherein
2 said signal processing system selects a point of maximum
3 slope from each of said first and second pulse wave
4 signals.

1 ²²
23. (New) An apparatus according to Claim ¹⁹20, wherein
2 at least one of said pulse sensors is a fiberoptic sensor
3 having a fused-fiber coupling region.

1 ²³
24. (New) An apparatus according to Claim ²²23, wherein
2 at least a portion of said fused-fiber coupling region is
3 configured such that it can be deflected to change an
4 output of said fiberoptic sensor without said coupling
5 region being put under tension.

1 ²⁴
25. (New) A method according to Claim ²²23, wherein
2 said fused-fiber coupling region is substantially U-shaped.